

You cannot wait until a storm is coming. Taking early precautions, as well as having a recovery plan, is very important to minimize damage to your own property.

If enough people take precautions, government agencies are free to help those who need it most: the elderly, children, the handicapped, and people in shelters.

So make sure you have a three day supply of non-perishable food and water;

Make sure that you have a change of batteries for your flashlights, radios, and other devices;

Fill up your car's gas tank; and keep all your important papers in a safe, dry place.

Please don't wait until the last minute to prepare. It's up to all of us to make sure we're safe.

I also want to thank President Obama and his entire administration for working with state and local authorities throughout the year to prepare for hurricane season and all types of disasters. I'd also like to thank the President and his Administration for including the State of Florida Emergency Manager Bryan Koon, Florida Adjutant General Major General Emmett Titshaw, and Florida Power & Light President Eric Silagy in his hurricane preparedness briefing at the White House yesterday.

Lastly, I'd like to salute the important role that our first responders and local television and radio broadcasters play in coordinating and providing critical information during hurricanes and times of disaster.

It takes a tremendous amount of planning and coordination, and we are grateful for the collaboration that the public and private sectors play in times of emergency.

Hopefully we'll have an uneventful hurricane season this year. But we must always be prepared so that we can weather the storm and come out safe and sound on the other end.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, yesterday, the House of Representatives took a vote on H. AMDT. 1159 to H.R. 5854, the Military Construction/VA Appropriations Bill. I voted in support of this amendment because it strikes the anti-project labor agreement language within section 517 of this bill.

This amendment was pro-labor and will keep Project Labor Agreements from being eliminated within the bill. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) have been essential and successful tools used by both governments and private sector companies for years. They help not only employees, but also employers. PLAs have been used since the 1930s in the U.S. and studies show they not only promote fair labor practices, but also are cost-effective.

For these reasons, I voted to protect PLAs because we, in Congress, need to stand strong in our fight for fair labor practices and in protecting policies that prove to be successful.

CELEBRATING CHEMICOMAYS LLC ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR THIRD CONSECUTIVE SELECTION AS GENERAL MOTORS SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ChemicoMays LLC and its CEO Leon Richardson as the company is honored for its third consecutive year as a General Motors Supplier of the Year. Each year, General Motors (GM) awards this distinction to less than one percent of its nearly 20,000 suppliers worldwide.

ChemicoMays, based in Southfield, Michigan, was formed as a joint venture between Chemico System and Mays Chemical in 2005. Since that time, it has used its more than 20 years of experience to deliver chemical management solutions for industry customers. With over 250 employees and a focus on providing high quality service to its many customers, the company's client base has grown to include great American companies like General Motors, Boeing and Eli Lilly.

Through its unique proprietary Web interface system, ChemicoMays has labored to provide its customers a user-friendly tool that enables them to easily access the more than 150 million pounds of chemicals it procures annually. ChemicoMays also provides to its clients a specialized array of inventory management tools that allow companies to efficiently identify and utilize previously wasted supplies. In concert with its policy to provide simple, transparent pricing, ChemicoMays has a proven track record that has resulted in not one of its clients having a work stoppage due to chemical availability.

ChemicoMays' commitment to excellence in production and service is a standard that emanates from its CEO Leon Richardson. Prior to the creation of ChemicoMays, Mr. Richardson established Chemico Systems, Inc. in 1989 and served as its president. Throughout his career, Mr. Richardson has strived to ensure that his clients receive the best and most comprehensive customer support. More importantly, Mr. Richardson brings out the best in his employees in fulfillment of the company's mission. With his tenacity and experience, he led Chemico Systems from a mere start-up company to one of the world's top suppliers of chemical products and chemical management services in the automotive, bio-tech and academic sectors.

Today, Mr. Richardson's effective leadership continues as CEO of ChemicoMays. His dedication and that of ChemicoMays' employees have earned the company numerous industry accolades including three consecutive Supplier of the Year Awards from GM, GM's 2007 Environmental Excellence Award and being named one of Michigan's top 50 companies to watch in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating ChemicoMays and Mr.

Leon Richardson on earning the company's third consecutive Supplier of the Year Award from GM. ChemicoMays' commitment to excellence in production and service has greatly benefited its customers, employees and the communities it calls home.

REP. PETRI FLOOR AMENDMENT 25 (RULES AMENDMENT 46) TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (H.R. 4310)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to compensate National Guard troops for miscalculated leave time.

This amendment corrects a government error to pay approximately 575 Army National Guard troops for leave time they earned but were unable to take after their last deployment. These soldiers have spent time overseas defending our great nation—some in multiple deployments—and have earned their leave benefits.

The Army agrees that these Guardsmen should have received PDMRA leave. However, the Army's only legal remedy is to allow them use their PDMRA leave after a future deployment. Since some of these soldiers will not deploy again and others have left the service entirely, this remedy has no value in many cases.

I would like to give special thanks to Congressman PETRI for working with me to ensure that this egregious bureaucratic error is rectified. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and properly support our service members who selflessly serve.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIOTT DUCHON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Jurupa Valley are exceptional. Our area has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Elliott Duchon is one of these individuals. On Saturday, May 19, 2012, Duchon was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Jurupa Valley Chamber of Commerce for his work as the Jurupa Unified School District Superintendent.

In 1974, Duchon graduated from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) with a Master's Degree in Education and Psychology. After graduation, he was an elementary teacher for the Jurupa Unified School District where he also served on school planning committees, including the school site council. After three years of teaching, Duchon was self-employed and served as a consultant to the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools where he performed land use studies and demographic research and analysis to form a